

Household Recycling Centre Service (HRCs) model change from nine to ten HRCs - Supplementary information

This information is supplementary to the report to be considered by Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet meeting due to be held 22 September 2022. This information is being provided for reassurance that a wide range of information and data sources has been considered to estimate visitor numbers and waste flow.

The changes to the HRC service model are a recommendation put forward to Cabinet by Neighbourhood Services – Strategic Waste Management & Enforcement which acts on behalf of the Council as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). Resource Futures, as the Council's waste technical advisors have provided input and advice in the preparation of forecasts and due diligence on the rationale, assumptions, and calculations. For further information please refer to Addendum 1.

Key waste flow information

A copy of the external advisor's report is included as an addendum to the supplementary information for completeness. In addition, this summary highlights the methods and evidence used by the Council as Waste Disposal Authority to estimate the waste flow and visitor numbers at Bledlow HRC if it were to open.

Based on the latest housing growth projections waste growth has been considered across the administrative boundary in relation to a ten site HRC service model.

Using Burnham HRC as an appropriate proxy for the reopening of Bledlow HRC

Burnham HRC is the closest proxy site based on historic performance. Burnham had 97% of the total tonnage of Bledlow in the ten-year period before Bledlow closed which makes the site a suitable proxy for Bledlow HRC if it were to open.

Identifying which sites Bledlow HRC users shifted to post 2019 service changes

An analysis was undertaken of postcodes collected during the December 2021 HRC survey, of which there were 250 respondents per HRC site. The 2021 customer survey showed that most HP14 & HP27 users visited High Wycombe HRC. There was a clear split between HP14 areas used High Wycombe HRC solely, with residents in HP27 (Princes Risborough) 60% used the High Wycombe HRC, 27% Aston Clinton & 13% Aylesbury HRCs.

Estimating future visitor numbers using Burnham as a proxy site

- a. Traffic counter data. Bledlow had 90% of the users of Burnham in the 6 years prior to closing. Using this figure to estimate future usage is robust as the current Burnham figures take into account the services changes since 2019 which are assumed to be replicated at Bledlow (5 day opening, charging for non-household waste) and would reflect the reduction in visitor numbers experienced. All sites have seen fewer customers since 2019 irrespective of covid restrictions.
- b. Estimating the number of out of county users that will return to Bledlow. Historically 32-35% of users of Bledlow were from the Oxfordshire area. Since 2019 all sites have seen fewer users & volume of waste. This means HRC sites that were previously exceeding or nearing tonnage

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capacity are now less congested and see less waste. If Bledlow HRC were to re-open, and more so if the site was solely for Buckinghamshire residents, it would be reasonable to assume similar lower waste volume and visitor trends. Burnham HRC can be used by residents from Slough, although this is facilitated by an administrative charge between authorities. Even still, since 2019 Slough users have dropped by 7.5% points. The key difference between Bledlow and Burnham is that users are not directly charged at the entrance at Burnham. We must therefore assume, that there will be a much lower return of Oxfordshire residents when charging is taken into account

Overall, the forecasts are based on best available data and reasonable assumptions. For further information please refer to Addendum 1.